

# Town of Callahan

*'A Florida Municipality'*

## Town Council Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2014

7:00 P.M.

**Present at Meeting:** Mayor Rau, Mr. Fontes, Mr. Bass, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Kirk, Mr. Mellecker, Mr. Branham, Mrs. Knagge, Mr. Williams, Five (5) Members of Teens for Change a division of NACDAC, one (1) member of the Community, and two (2) members of the Media.

**Absent:** None

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**Meeting Called to Order** – Mr. Bass at 7:05 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance to Flag/Invocation** – Pledge and Invocation by Mr. Bass

**Visitors Welcomed and Reminded Minutes are Being Recorded** -- Mr. Bass

**Persons Wishing to Address Council on Items Not on the Agenda** -- None

### **Minutes**

- Motion to Approve the Minutes by Mr. Fontes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Mellecker. Motion Carried.
  - No Discussion

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Motion to Approve the Treasurer's Report by Mrs. Smith and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Fontes. Motion Carried.
  - No Discussion

### **Presentations**

- Teens for Change – Extension of Nassau Alcohol Crime and Drug Abatement Coalition -- Jason Lynch
  - Updated the Council on what has been going on with NACDAC this year on the Westside of the County:
    - Earned a Drug Free Community Grant
    - Created the Teens for Change Club at West Nassau with Ms. Tammy Roberts as the Club sponsor.
      - This club encourages the Teens to become leaders in the Community.
      - Membership is at 60+ students at this time.

- Along with Paul Schwend the Club created a program called “X the Text” that is only in Florida and has 250+ members at this time.
- The Students are a part of the National Chic-Fil-A Leadership Academy and are the only students from Nassau County in the program.
- Students created the WECAN initiative that is the “Warrior Educational College Acceleration Network” that encourages students that no matter what they can attend college.
- President Lyndsay & Vice President Allan discussed and answered questions regarding what the Teens 4 Change Program has done for them.
- Mr. Kirk offered snack cakes, bread, etc. from his company to help the club with refreshments during their meetings.

## **Old Business**

- Interlocal Agreement between Nassau County, FL & The Town of Callahan
  - Motion to Approve the Agreement as is by Mr. Fontes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Mellecker.
    - Discussion
      - Mr. Williams recommended accepting the changes the County wants in sections #10 & #11, so our people can get back to work.
      - Mr. Branham reminded the Council that there is a 60 day clause that if we decide to change our minds we can back out of the contract.
      - Mr. Fontes stated that Hilliard changed #11 to ‘where possible’.
      - Mr. Williams stated that Chief O’Steen has said when the County comes in it is protocol to turn over control to them anyways, so the requested change to #11 is doable.
- Amend the Motion for Mayor to sign the Agreement with the Addition of: SOG to the extent doing so is reasonable, practical, and not in conflict with State Laws by Mr. Fontes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Mellecker.
  - No Further Discussion
  - Motion Carried.
- Code Enforcement Officer
  - Mrs. Knagge stated that with changing of the Mayor & Council, vacations, and Holidays the Interviews haven’t been able to be coordinated.
  - Mrs. Knagge recommended re-advertising and starting over.
  - Mr. Fontes recommended that the Interview Committee consist of: Mayor, Mr. Williams, Mr. Mellecker, & Mrs. Knagge.
  - Consensus of the Council to go with Mr. Fontes & Mrs. Knagge’s recommendations.
  - Item tabled until Recommendations from the Committee can be made.
- Planning & Zoning Board Appointment
  - Mr. Fontes recommended Mr. Knagge since he has shown interests & effort to be involved in the Town by running for Town Council.
  - Mr. Kirk stated that he had someone else in mind.
  - Consensus of Council for everyone to bring their recommendations to next meeting and appoint someone at that time.

- Mrs. Knagge brought up the issue of the Consistency of Planning & Zoning Meetings is lacking and that it needs to be brought up to match Chapter 195 & the Comp Plan. She stated that the Town people need to be able to address the Planning & Zoning Board as needed and if the Meeting is supposed to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday night of every month than it needs to occur even if the meeting is opened, it is stated that there is nothing to discuss, there is no one to address the Board, and the Meeting is closed.
- Mr. Williams recommend that the Clerk handle the Agendas for the Planning & Zoning Meetings since she is responsible for the Advertising anyways, and that would insure that the Meetings are more consistent.
- Mr. Williams brought up that part of the issue with the inconsistency is that Mr. Larsen's schedule is so busy. Mr. Kirk stated that if the day of the Meeting needs to change to help Mr. Larsen that is fine with him, but he does agree with Mrs. Knagge that consistency needs to occur.
- Mr. Williams will check with Mr. Larsen on the day and report back to the Council.
- Nassau County Economic Development Board Appointment
  - Mrs. Knagge stated that if we want to be represented and for the NCEDB to do something for our Town we need to be represented. Mrs. Knagge's recommendation would be to appoint someone that is on the Planning & Zoning Board, so that person is up to date on the direction the Town wants to go.
  - It was decided to table the Appointment until everyone can bring back their recommendations.

### **New Business**

- Updating of Council Chambers Recording Equipment & Technology
  - Mrs. Knagge stated that the Council recording equipment is in need of updating. It has been malfunctioning and only recording the Meeting half of the time. She also stated that she recommends the Town going paperless by using iPads/tablets to save the Town money in printing and so that the Council can be more prepared for meetings by having the Agenda and supporting information immediately.
  - After a lengthy discussion it was decided that Mrs. Knagge & Mr. Williams would find out the costs involved with adding microphones at each station, updating the recording equipment, the possibility of adding cameras for web streaming for the citizens, how to make emails more easily attainable by Council Members, and the costs involved with going paperless for the Council Members who want to do so.
- Junior's Seafood Alcohol & Beverage License
  - Motion to Approve the Alcohol & Beverage License for Junior's Seafood by Mr. Fontes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Mellecker.
  - Discussion:
    - Mrs. Fontes stated that if we want more businesses to come to our town than we have to be more willing to allow those businesses to serve the customers what they want and if that is an alcoholic drink with their meal then so be it. He stated that while he himself doesn't need that he knows that a lot of people do.
    - Motion Carried with Mrs. Shaw voting No.

- West Nassau Historical Society
  - Christmas tree lighting on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 PM.
- Review of Holiday Schedule
  - Mr. Williams stated that he would like to change our employee paid Holidays to match the County Dates. This would add Good Friday to the list of paid Holiday's.
  - Lengthy Discussion.
  - Council Consensus was to add an Ordinance to the next Agenda for discussion with Mrs. Smith voting No.

**Recurring Business; Water & Sewer Adjustments** – None

**Review & Approval of Town Expenditures**

- General Fund **\$3,572.96**
  - Motion to approve the General Fund expenses to be paid by Mr. Fontes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Mellecker. Motion Carried.
- Water & Sewer Fund **\$10,377.67**
  - Motion to approve the Water & Sewer Fund expenses to be paid by Mr. Fontes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Smith. Motion Carried.
- Water & Sewer Disbursements **\$1,423.81**
  - Motion to approve the Water & Sewer Disbursements to be paid by Mr. Fontes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Smith. Motion Carried.

**Around the Council Table**

- **Mayor**
  - Received letter from American Cancer Society asking for donation, but we have already donated this year.
  - Received a Thank You letter from Mayor Graham thanking all of us for the Retirement Reception.
- **Mr. Mellecker** -- None
- **Mr. Fontes**
  - Stated that he & Mr. Williams have been looking at ways to save the Town money so as to not have to go up on the rates. In doing so, he asked for permission for himself and Mr. Williams to go to banks to look at refinancing for better rates on the Water & Sewer loans.
  - Mr. Branham stated that he is not sure that would be legal.
  - Mr. Williams asked about the possibility of Bonds, and Mr. Branham said yes.
  - Mr. Fontes stated that Rural Development is encouraging us to look at ways of paying off the loans, so that they can help other towns.



- Mr. Fontes stated that he will be out of the Country with his wife for a Month, but wanted to wish everyone a happy Holiday.

➤ **Mrs. Kirk** – None

➤ **Mrs. Shaw** -- None

➤ **Mrs. Smith** – None

➤ **Mr. Branham**

- Stated that the Lender of Rudy's Equipment who wanted to repose our Excavator have finally decided to give up and drop the lawsuit.

➤ **Mrs. Knagge**

- The Blinsoe's who are opening a new Meat Shoppe, Inc. where Callahan Meats was previously has passed every requirement except for their 'Raw Meat Certification' the State of Florida will allow them to open for 30 days without the Certification. The question is will the Town allow it?
- The Consensus of the Council is to administer a Provisional Business Tax Receipt until the Certification is provided.

➤ **Mr. Williams**

- Reminded everyone that the Parade is Saturday at 11:00 AM and if you want to ride on the Float please be at the Fire Station by 9:30 AM. Also, the Holiday party is on the 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 and everyone is asked to bring an unwrapped toy for Toys-4-Tots & the Volunteers Santa truck the week before Christmas and a side dish.

**Adjourn** -- Motion to adjourn by Mr. Fontes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Mellecker. Motion Carried. Time: 8:25 PM



John Kenneth Bass, Council President



Stephanie Knagge, Town Clerk